Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What Is Claimed Is:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein the modulator is mounted dynamically tiltable ~~tiltably~~ and wherein at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one layer of the modulator is configured in such a way that the greatest possible phase shift is already achieved by a slight tilt.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the at least one layer comprises glass plates of various glasses.

Claims 4 – 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): The apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The apparatus as defined in Claim 2, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The apparatus as defined in Claim 3, wherein the modulator possesses a defined variable layer configuration.

Claim 11 (currently amended): An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein for phase shifting, optical polarization means in combination with retardation plates are present and wherein the modulator is mounted dynamically tiltable and ~~wherein~~ at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An apparatus for implementing phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path, wherein various modulators are arranged on a carrier in a manner introducible into the beam path of the microscope and are selectably mounted, dynamically tiltable ~~tiltably~~ individually or dynamically tiltable ~~tiltably~~ together with the carrier, on that carrier and wherein at least a portion of the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is non-reflective.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for implementing a defined phase shift in the implementation of phase-contrast or modulation-contrast observation on microscopes with the aid of a modulator arranged in each pupil plane in the observation beam path and containing at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude, and of a stop arranged in the illumination beam path of the microscope, wherein the modulator is dynamically tilted and wherein the at least one layer modifying the phase or amplitude is transmissive.